

11 May 1966

Mr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong
Editor
Foreign Affairs

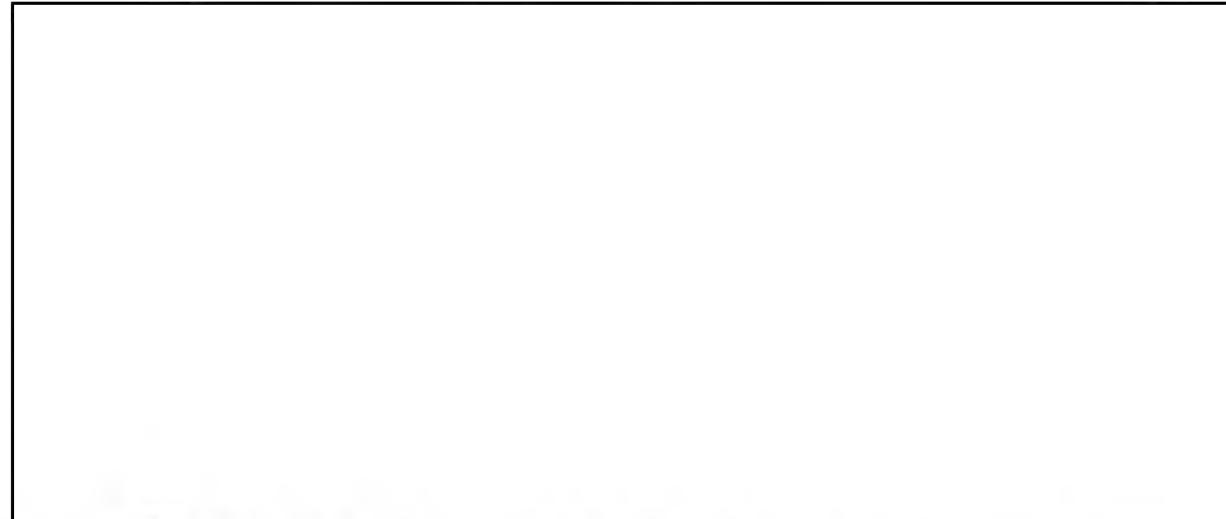
Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I am writing to say how much I regret the embarrassment you have been caused and the public attacks on the integrity of your journal which have been occasioned by the contretemps over my article in the April 1966 issue. Unfortunately, some who are hostile to the Agency and to the U. S. Government's Vietnam policy saw, in me, a handy instrument to employ in berating both. In the process, no attention has been paid to the facts of the case so far as our association is concerned.

As an Agency officer I resent the unfounded charge that my article represents a covert "plant" by which the Agency was illegally and improperly attempting to influence domestic opinion. As an individual I strongly resent not only the attacks on my personal integrity and scholarship but, particularly, the unspoken premise of our critics that anyone working for the government is by definition incapable of being anything but his bureaucratic superiors' servile flack. Above all, however, I resent the thinly veiled charge that you, Mr. Quigg and staff of Foreign Affairs are either stupid dopes or witting accomplices in a reprehensible and clumsy deception.

It is ironic that the biographic squib run with my April 1966 article is identical to that which caused no adverse comment and raised no eyebrows in the April 1965 issue. It is doubly ironic that my government and Agency affiliation was not mentioned because both articles were expressions of independent, personal views and neither was an official position paper. The emotions and objectives of our critics are such, however, that they seem little swayed by facts or rational explanation.

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Please convey to Mr. Quigg and the rest of your staff my renewed thanks for all of the help they have given me and my very sincere regrets at the embarrassment I have unintentionally caused you all.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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